

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system comprising:

a host computer;

a digital camera for picking up a scene with an image sensor and recording image data representative of said scene in a recording medium; and

a high-speed serial interface connecting said digital camera to said host computer;

said host computer comprising a device driver having at least a first device function for recognizing said digital camera as a storage driver, which records data representative of a still picture, and writing or reading said image data in or out of the recording medium, a second device function for recognizing said digital camera as an image device, which generates image data representative of a moving picture, and reading said image data out of the image sensor at a preselected period, and a third device function for recognizing said digital camera as an operating device and feeding an operation command to said digital camera;

said digital camera comprising a controller for driving, in response to an access made from any one of said first to third device functions of said host computer via said high-speed serial interface, portions of said digital camera corresponding to said access to thereby control data transfer and a shooting operation.

2. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said high-speed serial interface comprises a USB (Universal Serial Bus) serial interface, wherein the image data representative of a still picture is transferred by said first device function using bulk transfer, which transfers image data at an idle position of a transfer frame, wherein the image data representative of a moving picture is transferred by said second device function using isochronous transfer, which transfers

a preselected amount of data every preselected frame, and wherein the operation command is transferred by said third device function using interrupt transfer or control transfer, which transfers data when polling at a preselected period.

3. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said high-speed serial interface comprises an IEEE 1394 serial interface, wherein the image data representative of a still picture is transferred by said first device function using asynchronous transfer, which transfers data when a bus is idle in a preselected transfer cycle, wherein the image data representative of a moving picture is transferred by said second device function using isochronous transfer, which transfers data by seizing a channel every preselected transfer cycle, and wherein the operation command is transferred by said third device function using said asynchronous transfer.

4. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said digital camera further comprises a speech input section for generating digital speech data representative of an input speech signal, and wherein said device driver of said host computer further comprises a fourth device function for receiving said digital speech data from said speech input section together with the image data representative of a moving picture via said high-speed serial interface.

5. A system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said digital camera further comprises a speech input section for generating digital speech data representative of an input speech signal, and wherein said device driver of said host computer further comprises a fourth device function for receiving said digital speech data from said speech input section together with the data representative of a moving picture via said high-speed serial interface.

6. A system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said digital camera further comprises a speech input section for generating digital speech data representative of an input speech signal, and wherein said device driver of said host computer further comprises a fourth device function for receiving said digital speech data from said speech input section together with the image data representative of a moving picture via said high-speed serial interface.

7. A system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said host computer further comprises a communicating section for interchanging data with another computer via a communication channel, and wherein said computer system constitutes an electronic conference system capable of sending the image data representative of a moving picture or a still picture and/or said digital speech data received via said high-speed serial interface to said another computer via said communicating section.

8. A system in accordance with claim 5, wherein said host computer further comprises a communicating section for interchanging data with another computer via a communication channel, and wherein said computer system constitutes an electronic conference system capable of sending the image data representative of a moving picture or a still picture and/or said digital speech data received via said high-speed serial interface to said another computer via said communicating section.

9. A system in accordance with claim 6, wherein said host computer further comprises a communicating section for interchanging data with another computer via a communication channel, and wherein said computer system constitutes an

electronic conference system capable of sending the image data representative of a moving picture or a still picture and/or said digital speech data received via said high-speed serial interface to said another computer via said communicating section.

10. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said digital camera further comprises a storage for rewritably storing system software assigned to said digital camera, and wherein said device driver of said host computer further comprises a fifth device function for rewriting said system software via said high-speed serial interface.

11. A system in accordance with claim 7, wherein said digital camera further comprises a storage for rewritably storing system software assigned to said digital camera, and wherein said device driver of said host computer further comprises a fifth device function for rewriting said system software via said high-speed serial interface.

12. A system in accordance with claim 8, wherein said digital camera further comprises a storage for rewritably storing system software assigned to said digital camera, and wherein said device driver of said host computer further comprises a fifth device function for rewriting said system software via said high-speed serial interface.

13. A system in accordance with claim 9, wherein said digital camera further comprises a storage for rewritably storing system software assigned to said digital camera, and wherein said device driver of said host computer further comprises a fifth device function for rewriting said system software via said high-speed serial interface.

14. In a digital camera for picking up a scene with an image sensor and recording image data representative of said scene in a recording medium and operable under a control of an outside apparatus via a high-speed serial interface, said outside apparatus comprises a device driver having at least:

a device driver having at least a first device function for recognizing said digital camera as a storage driver, which records data representative of a still picture, and writing or reading said image data in or out of the recording medium; a second device function for recognizing said digital camera as an image device, which generates image data representative of a moving picture, and reading said image data out of the image sensor at a preselected period; and

a third device function for recognizing said digital camera as an operating device and feeding an operation command to said digital camera;

said digital camera comprising a controller for driving, in response to an access made from any one of said first to third device functions of said host computer via said high-speed serial interface, portions of said digital camera corresponding to said access to thereby control data transfer and a shooting operation.